

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
June 1983 10p



PLUS BUS

(pages 8-9)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Cover picture

Bob Alexander launches Sheffield's 'Plus Bus' – see pp 8-9

Photo: Peter Kay

Personal View

'Merchants of Words'

'The pen is mightier than the sword'. Words are more powerful than swords since they are the vehicles of ideas. Hitler's maxim is still quoted by his followers: 'We shall win, even if it takes 1,000 years: you cannot kill an idea'.

Our age is full of words. They bombard us like meteorites from outer space. They fall on our ears so fast that we get mental indigestion. We are given opinions as words of authority – in essence a subtle form of brainwashing. It has been said that the media have killed the art of conversation; they could equally be said to have killed, or to be killing, the power of individuals to think for themselves. In medieval times words were feared and regarded as magic. A witch could not work a spell unless the right words were used. Nowadays press or newsreaders have only to use the right words to create a climate of opinion. Much can be done by tone of voice: one snide remark or intrusive question in an interview and a person's public image can be won or lost.

The defence of the 'merchant of words' is to indict the reading public. 'We're in business', they say, 'and we give the public what they want'. These replies are held to justify the degradation of sacred subjects, invasion of privacy, perversion of the truth, harassment, cheque book journalism. To complain is to be held in contempt and mocked as out of touch, as we have witnessed in the treatment of Mrs Mary Whitehouse. Yet in fairness it must be said that not all are like this: some do follow in the wake of the great men of the past. I have heard that Dr Johnson never began a piece of writing or a day's work without committing it to 'the giver of his talent'. The painter of an ikon is still not allowed to start without a period of fasting and the blessing of his tools. He is a servant of humanity, made so by that very talent. In the light of this knowledge one is bound to wonder how those 'merchants of words' the press barons regard themselves!

Maybe they are right and it is not their fault, but ours. I could be as guilty as they because, lacking moral courage, I remain silent. I recall a sermon I heard some years ago in Munich, at a Mass given specially for artists and writers. The preacher, a well known and highly regarded writer, reminded the congregation that they were people with a special gift and that, when they came to be judged, to say that they were 'artists' would be no excuse for its misuse. It was their duty to uplift mankind, not to drag up the dregs of sinful humanity from their own depths and call it 'entertainment'. These words burned into my memory.

They are words which apply not only to artists and writers but to people like us. Words are *our* tools also and with them we can help others – especially the oncoming generation. We can give a better understanding of the meaning of life. A report in a recent Franciscan magazine underlines the idea. One of the Brothers was supervising a community service group. Among the workers there was frequent use of the words 'Christ', 'Jesus' and similar names. At last the Brother went over to the worst offender and said 'Do you know, laddie that we have a great love for Him in this house?' The lad looked up puzzled and then, when he understood what the remark implied, said shyly 'I think I do, too, Brother'. They laughed together and from then on there was more careful use of the name of the Word that dwells among us.

The recollection of this Word dwelling among us brings the picture of the perfect word, and the reminder that we speak by action as well as language. As a small child I was told that actions speak louder than words. Our Lord said 'By their fruits you shall know them'. The glossy magazines speak of 'body language' though I don't think they have the same interpretation as I do. For me the phrase brings up the picture of St Francis asking a very nervous young Brother to accompany him on a preaching in the town square. They went, they walked round, they returned home. The young Brother said 'But we didn't preach'. St Francis replied. 'They saw us: they know to whom we belong; we preached.' The great Cardinal Wiseman speaking of his own conversion attributed a great deal to a young kitchen maid in his mother's house. He never spoke to her, he did not know her name, but he'd noticed that on Sundays and feast days she rose early to go to Mass. Her actions spoke loudly to him.

Such incidents lead us to think of our own responsibility as 'merchants of words'. I may be neither writer nor painter but, as a human being, my whole life proclaims (writes) of truth and beauty, or of lies and hatred. Other 'merchants of words' may have a defence when they say that they give us what we want, that you cannot sell unwanted goods. We have all been given freedom of choice and with it responsibility – responsibility for permitting the lowering or raising of the standards of our civilisation. An awesome thought indeed. Perhaps we ought to have a special prayer said each day on the radio for all 'merchants of words'.

Megan John

LEARNING FOR LEISURE

-a project for the young unemployed

by Maggie Kay

Projects are run to help people in need. It does not do any harm to stop and think about those needs now and again: indeed the Yorkshire Area Group was formed as a development group to do just that. One of the new problem areas we identified, where Toc H was not particularly active, was the need of young unemployed people to adjust to an environment where jobs are no longer a reality for the majority of school leavers. The very real waste of human resources as well as the humiliation of not being able to find a job are areas that should concern us all, as caring people with a commitment to meeting needs wherever they occur.

From this germ of an idea grew a very special project, 'Learning for Leisure'. Not entirely original! Many schemes had been tried and failed but we were confident that Toc H could provide that magic ingredient. The basic idea is to motivate young people to try new leisure pursuits and to generate a social awareness that will change attitudes to leisure and encourage community service.

After many months of planning, the first pilot project was held at Colsterdale during Easter week. Ten unemployed 16-17 year olds, together with five volunteers and a mini bus driver drafted from the local Branch arrived in very uncertain weather conditions over the Easter weekend. Once we had recruited Ron Gash, the warden, as a regular volunteer and sorted out the weather man, things ran extraordinarily smoothly.

The programme of activities included outward bound and craft based activities. We caved, climbed, canoed, hiked, rode extremely docile ponies, watched birds and shot several arrows apiece with varying aptitude and style! In quieter moments we made leather purses, engraved, made puppets, macrame plant hangers, painted stones and pictures, or



Linda and Bren making leather purses

just gathered round and talked about problems within the community. Most of the volunteers were experiencing several of these activities for the first time, but we all tried to bring at least one hobby of our own to the project.

As with all Toc H projects a fantastic atmosphere developed during the week. Not only did the participants 'thaw out' visibly, but the volunteers widened their view of the problems of young unemployment and learned a lot about themselves in the process! By the end of the week everyone wished we had come for a fortnight.

But the end of the week is not the end of the project. Several of the volunteers were recruited from the Newcastle area, where the young people came from, with the specific intention of following up the contacts and helping them to develop the ideas generated on the project, and involve other young people in their area. Some of the activities planned are craft workshops and weekend or day trips for outward bound activities. We also hope to encourage the formation of community action groups. To make this stage a success we are relying on the support of local Toc H Branches and staff.

As I pointed out, this project is just a pilot scheme. We are running another for older 'teenagers in September, again with the support of local volunteers. Only by being there and seeing the defensive attitudes melt into compassion and



A puppetry session in progress

understanding, largely brought about by sheer enjoyment, can one fully understand just how worthwhile this type of project really is; and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to lead this pilot scheme.

If you are looking for a chance to participate in projects, as an individual or as a Branch, this one is really worth a second look. Next year we would like to find two more areas of high unemployment with strong Toc H support to extend this project nationwide. We need volunteers of all ages (on this project the age of volunteers varied from 20 to 60+); so long as you have a teachable hobby, piles of energy or can drive a minibus or cook, you will be in heavy demand.

As a Branch it would be possible to 'adopt' a Learning for Leisure project, raising the money, finding needy young people, supplying a few volunteers and master minding the follow-up. Here is a chance to really do something and who knows, it may earn you a few new Branch members or a local action group!

Just drop us a line and someone will come along and talk to you about it. Write to:

Yorkshire Area Group
Maggie Kay
22 Marlborough Avenue
Hessle
N Humberside HU13 0PN



Ron about to be woken up by Alan and Davy



The group just before departure

Photos: Peter Kay

Round and about

with Scott Shaw

Holiday 'hotel' for the handicapped

Do you know of any parents with a handicapped child? No matter how much love there is, such parenthood can be demanding and holidays can be a particularly difficult time.

Northam Lodge in North Devon, could be the answer. It is a holiday 'hotel', established as a charitable venture by parents of handicapped children, which can cater for up to eight young guests.

Its attractions include one and a half acres of grounds, including an adventure playground, with facilities for indoor entertainment if the weather is wet. Outings include visits to farms, the beach and shopping trips.

The centre will accommodate guests, whatever their disability, and practically any age (they have had visitors from two to 40); staff give constant attention.

And if you have any lingering doubts — the venture is supported by Toc H locally, so it must be good! Further details are available from Richard Cope, Northam Lodge, Northam, N Devon EX39 3QB. Tel: 02372 (Bideford) 77238.

Norman's at it again!

The man who played a major part in producing and prompting the Toc H film 'Emergency' in Britain and many parts of the world, can't shake off the film bug!

He recently showed to Margate Men's Branch films of Alison House, Dor Knap, Cuddesdon and the Old House, the Poperinge hop festival and Ypres.

(The film 'Emergency' about the Toc H flashing light alarm system pioneered by his old Branch at Loughton, has even been shown on television in some countries, and undoubtedly helped promote the scheme in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.)

It's spectacular . . . it's action packed . . . it's a coffee evening!

No let's be sensible. It wasn't the coffee evening itself. The Barrow on Humber Joint Branch had a brainwave of providing entertainment as well — which is what attracted such a glowing tribute from the Grimsby Evening Telegraph.

The local school headmaster and 100 pupils presented an hour of dance, song, poetry and comedy, followed by two gentlemen on harmonicas. The outcome of this excellent evening? £90 for the local hospital scanner fund!

A lot of animals

A cheque for £200 was presented to Borough Green Branch by The Beavers . . . Trimley women, preparing parcels for the housebound, were given 12 puddings by the local Cubs and Porlock Branch holding their annual party for the old folk, were supported by a donation from the local horse show. The food was arranged by Mrs Moles . . .

Not what they asked for — but welcome anyway

When a Clacton Branch appealed for a garage for their minibus, they didn't get one — but they did get five new volunteer drivers. Obviously they've been doing the wrong thing. If you want a garage, you don't come right out and ask for it. You appeal for extra drivers — then someone will probably offer you a garage!

They've got it!

Thurrock Toc H recently took delivery of their new £20,000 bus for the disabled, at a special discount price from the makers of £17,500.

The purpose built bus, which can accept wheelchairs, will be used for taking disabled people to clubs, on outings and weekend breaks. It was dedicated to founder member Stanley Price, who died last year.

How to raise £35 from a captive audience

It's a lot like going to see University Challenge televised and being asked to buy a set of encyclopaedias . . . but it's a good idea! Attleborough men's 'Top of the Town' quiz show was in several heats — and at each one they had a bring and buy stall on the side. Clever!

Cubs reward a Hunt

Allan Hunt of Surrey District was remembered in the New Years Honours — by the local Cub Scouts! They recently awarded him their Thank You Badge for over ten years service in helping them learn map reading.

Now he moves on to other pastures — a large site near Gatwick airport, in fact. There he'll be helping Toc H Padre Edgar Wallace in his latest venture — the building of a centre for the handicapped.

Doing things by 'halves' is a generous act

We may pat ourselves on the back when we distribute things at Christmas time — and perhaps we're entitled to. But how many people benefit — 20? 50? 100? At Easter, North Walsham men delivered half a dozen eggs to no less than 224 elderly, lonely or sick people. To get an idea of the scale of the gift, that's over 1,300 eggs and at one every day, would last you more than 3½ years!

A Royal success for Toc H

Can you beat this? Rushden Royal Branch, in association with the local diabetic association, raised £818 with a ball, which attracted 240 people. Over the past ten years, such events have raised £6,200.

Makes one feel positively penurious, doesn't it?

Money on a plate

What's the best stuff to sell if you want to raise money. Apparently it's food! Most of the £112 raised in Alston women's annual money raising effort came from the kitchens of members. So, gentlemen, learn your lesson. Roll your sleeves up — the cake mix is in the cupboard . . .

How to fix it that Jimmy knows you

If Jimmy Savile knows more about Toc H on the Isle of Wight than anywhere else, you can hardly blame him. Twice a year, for the past few years, they've been putting one of his ideas into practice — dances for the handicapped.

About 70 disabled youngsters from all over the island came to Carisbrooke high school to enjoy the latest mini handi dance and our correspondent Doris Foxworthy says *'they seem to gain more popularity each year. The students from the high school and technical college really enjoy the evening and quite a few friendships have developed between disabled and able-bodied people.'*

If you're thinking of organising a mini handi dance, do please write to me and I'll send you a free brochure. We can usually also get you a personal recorded message from Jimmy for playing during the evening, provided we have at least a month's notice.

Killing time — or using it?

'Son, don't come back — you will never work for the rest of your life . . .' That was the message from a job centre to a youngster in Newcastle, as reported in the latest programme in Topic on Tape.

That youngster's reaction was to attempt suicide but, as the Yorkshire Post reports, Toc H is showing there is an alternative. Early in April, Toc H members ran the first of two one-week projects at Colsterdale called *Learning for Leisure*, aiming, as they explained in the projects booklet, to teach 12 unemployed teenagers about the creative use of time.

There's another course in September, so if you know of any youngster who feels he or she is 'on the scrap heap', get more details from Maggie Kay, 22 Marlborough Avenue, Hessle, N Humberside HU13 0PN.

They dug deep with their tongues

We're all good at talking — some of us never stop — but how often do we talk seriously about the Movement; and how often do we talk with other Branches?

Maggie Weston (when it comes to talking, women are the experts) tells us of a recent North East Regional weekend held at Alison House, involving 27 members of youth action groups and Branches.

Dedicated to celebrating the family of Toc H in the North East, most of the weekend (quite rightly) was given to enjoying each other's company but they reserved Saturday morning for discussion about commitment.

One conclusion: *'The more involved we are, the more we feel part of the group and the deeper the sense of commitment. We need to create and encourage ways of involving people if we want to encourage their commitment to grow and deepen. This in turn is dependent on understanding their needs and feelings'*. The last bit is important. Before we give someone a task, we must know them well enough to be able to say: *'You're just the person to do this'*. People won't grow unless you plant them in the right job!

The trouble with this place is . . .

Thousands of people in Sheffield are being encouraged to grumble — by Toc H! Nigel Pratt, our long term volunteer based in Sheffield, is having a wishing weekend in September (how's that for advance publicity?) and is inviting local people to put three wishes into special postboxes.

In an interview with the Sheffield Morning Telegraph, he said: *'I'm no fairy godmother, but hope to go some way to waving a magic wand — with the help of the council, police and social services of course.'*

'The idea is to find out the little things that niggle people and try to put them right.'

Good luck, Nigel. This is an excellent way of getting Toc H noticed — and picking up some really relevant jobs too.

A strange disease and a trampoline

Young people aren't what they were — some of them are kinder, friendlier and more thoughtful!

For 20 years, pupils and staff of Hatton School in Derbyshire have been hosts to the local Toc H disabled club, each year giving them a meal and an evening's entertainment.

It all started when some pupils called at the club to give a trampoline display. Writing in the Derby Evening Telegraph, Chairman Albert Palmer said *'This was enjoyed by the disabled and we thought this was the end of things.'*

'How wrong we were — because of what they had seen, the pupils, encouraged by very enlightened staff, started to raise money.'

So began the annual visits to the school. Says Albert *'That generation of pupils were very kind and considerate and the astounding thing is that each year we get the same happy reception.'*

'Some of the original pupils now have children of their own at the school with the same happy demeanour. Thanking everyone, including the kitchen staff, he added ' . . . these people also seemed to have caught this strange disease of perpetual happiness.'

There's a great truth here for us too: no matter how hard we try, people won't join us unless we're good to be with.

You can't do good sitting down

Are you an action man or woman? Have you ever read an article — then got up and done something about it? Dick Crump of Springfield District did just that.

In 1975, he saw an article on the Corrymeela Community, dedicated to working for reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Says Dick *' . . . as this initiative Christian and Ecumenical, had such a stimulating, positive ring about it, I took two weeks holiday and went over there to have a look at it'*.

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during March/April.

- 6 — Edinburgh Seventy Five (J)
- 4 — Dundee (J) Group
- 3 — Llandrindod Wells (J)
- 2 — Chirk (W), Headingley (W)
Levenmouth (J)
Tubby's Poperinge (J) Group
- 1 — Bailiff Bridge (M), Bideford (W)
Cardiff (J), Corwen (W), Coupar
Angus (J), E C & Tower Hill (J)
Elmstead (J), Graeme (M)
Leigh (J), Redcar (J) Group
St Austell (M)
St Thomas (Exeter) (J)
Stockport (J), Treforest (M)

A warm welcome to 35 new members

'I was tremendously impressed by what I saw and experienced. People of all ages have enjoyed relaxed holidays away from the fear and stresses of the cities. Catholics and Protestants have mixed freely and worshipped together at short informal services, particularly beneficial for children who otherwise only know about segregation.'

Dick adds that the work of reconciliation continues at weekend conferences, often involving individuals holding extreme views who would otherwise not meet.

He's continued to support the work of Corrymeela from Britain and attended the special service of prayer in Southampton in March; the local support group also raised funds with a charity concert.

I end with a quotation from the 1975 article which inspired Dick: *'Corrymeela offers hope not naive do-goodery — and gives guts and courage to people who must now hold out for their beliefs and resist violence. And that means braving intimidation, defying one's neighbours. Not easy, but as the old proverb has it: "It's better to light a candle than to curse the darkness".'*

The last word

A passenger in a train compartment was chewing gum incessantly. Facing him was an elderly woman who watched him attentively, then finally said: *it's really very nice of you to chat to an old woman, but I'm very hard of hearing.'*

(Acknowledgements to Lamplight, the Seaford Branch newsletter)

From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



We are, it seems to me, in some danger of becoming totally obsessed by our financial position. And that obsession arises, in large part, from our failure to take money seriously. While our Treasurers at every level have to live in a state of daily panic about their inability to pay the bills they receive, and therefore have to devise ever more heartrending appeals for our support, finance will inevitably dominate all our talk and all our action. For the appeals to grow louder and more frequent will solve nothing. There must be a better way of arranging our affairs. That better way, I believe, is to start taking finance seriously — and that means planning ahead, rather than lurching from crisis to crisis.

At the Branch level this means, quite simply, sitting down well before the start of the year and estimating the expenditure we will need to incur, what will be needed to meet our overheads

(rent, electricity, postage etc), what we will need for the activities we plan to carry out, and what it is right for us to pledge for the support of the wider family through the Family Purse. And then we plan how that expenditure is to be met, what we have decided to pledge from our own pockets, what fund raising events we will run during the year and what approaches we will make to local Trusts, local industry, the Social Services department and other organisations (a booklet of ideas and suggestions for such appeals will be circulated shortly). These appeals will be based on the estimated cost of the activities we plan but that will include a sum for overheads because such bodies know that the activities won't happen if the Branch can't meet the inevitable cost of keeping itself in being. Having done that, we will know that all the rest of our time and energy can be devoted to our real work of serving those in need.

If every Branch pledged its contribution to the wider family in this way, and met its pledge, our Treasurers at District and Regional level could once again sleep peacefully and our Bank Manager might even smile. More importantly, our District, Regional and central committees could stop devising all these emotional appeals and devote their energies to their real job of planning extension and training.

It sounds simple, and it really is. Just try it and see. But I wonder whether the obsession brought about by the 'panic button' approach to financial management is not in some places a symptom of a deeper and more dangerous obsession. The other night I read about a comment of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's to the effect that the church had become so obsessed with self preservation that it talks only about its own internal arrangements and has neither the time nor the energy to talk about the Kingdom. Do

not we in Toc H have to plead guilty to the same charge? Are we not equally obsessed with the survival of our Movement?

The fact is that the survival of Toc H doesn't matter at all. Whether Toc H lives or dies is in itself of no consequence.

Perhaps we'd better have a short pause at that point to allow your heartbeat to return to normal. But before you write that angry letter, let me try to explain what I mean. Toc H was created for a particular purpose — to help us to deepen our spiritual awareness and give others the opportunity of sharing that journey with us. What is of continuing importance is that purpose. That must survive. Toc H as an organisation, however, is only important in so far as it is an effective instrument for that purpose.

All our talk and all our planning should be about how to carry out that purpose by giving practical expression to the way of living, and of loving, which Jesus called the Kingdom of Heaven. Instead we spend hour after hour arguing about the right committee structures and worrying about how to get more members. Indeed, too often we judge new initiatives, whether projects or youth groups or community houses, by how many members they bring us rather than by their effectiveness in creating and deepening spiritual awareness in those who take part. If our primary concern is to save our life as a Movement we shall undoubtedly lose it. If we shed our obsession with survival and devote our energies to providing opportunities in which people (to adapt the challenging words in the Initiation ceremony) 'learn to think better of our Father, God, because they have known us', then Toc H will grow, because it will once again be an effective instrument in God's hands.



Rochdale Women's Branch celebrated their 50th birthday in March at a ceremony well attended by members and friends from far and near. Mrs Barbara Stafford presided, Mary Dykes made the birthday cakes and Marjorie Barnes, besides doing all the floral arrangements, took the Ceremony of Light and homegoing prayers. The Director, Kenneth Prideaux-Brune, was the speaker on this great occasion.



Treforest (Mid Glamorgan) Men's Branch celebrated their 50th birthday in March with a large gathering of members and friends. The Ceremony of Light and a Rededication Service conducted by the Methodist Superintendent Minister was followed by a happy 'get together' over refreshments.

Photo: Celtic Press

Railway Conservation in Gloucestershire

Photos: Peter Brooks



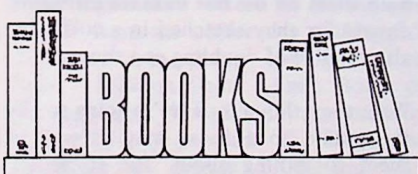
The West Midlands and South Wales Region run one of their long established projects on the Dean Forest Railway at Lydney, Glos. Over the Easter weekend, 11 enthusiastic volunteers carried the project forward and aimed to give the site a more attractive appearance for visitors.

Peter Brooks writes: *As the pictures show, our work varied from brewing tea in our ex-BR railway carriage*

to a distinctly navy-like existence in the open. It really was tremendous fun and made us appreciate what the real life navvies achieved in days of old. (Incidentally, one of the pictures shows Sharon and Melita selling reminders of those days in the site's shop.) We laid a path with steps, burnt mountains of cut down branches, cleared embankments, repaired a fence, laid gravel and lent a



hand at packing stones under the railway track. On Easter Sunday we had an open day which meant stopping work each time the train went by and then standing lost for a while in clouds of steam. Appropriately enough, many of us left on Easter Monday as we had arrived – in the roar and thunder of Inter-City 125s at Gloucester Station!



'Easter', 'Passover', 'Christmas'
(Three books from the Living Festival Series, 1982)

These three books are from a series of 12 which cover the festivals we encounter through the year: not only the familiar Christian festivals, but also the less familiar, but ever present religious celebrations such as Ramadan, the Chinese New Year and Divali. The General Editor is Jack Priestley, Lecturer in Education at the University of Exeter.

'Easter' (Norma Fairbourn and Jack Priestley) and **'Christmas'** (Antony Ewens)

These two books explain well the Christian message and meaning of these two festivals for Christians today. There

is also a wealth of information about the traditions and fables and local customs that surround Easter and Christmas, and explanations of why we use certain symbols and objects such as Easter eggs or Christmas trees. Both books also take a look at other nations and how they celebrate these holidays.

Both books are well illustrated and conclude with a summary of the meaning of the event. There is a list of 'things to do' and a page of useful addresses and relevant further information for teachers.

'Passover' (Lynne Scholefield)

This deals solely with the celebration and beliefs surrounding this Jewish festival, relating the background history very well, and showing how it relates to the celebration of the Passover today. For me a more interesting book, since the author has taken more trouble about the contents. It contains pictures and photos, but also songs, with the music score, and

poems, diagrams and quotations from various parts of the Torah. It even contains the recipes and how to make the dishes for the Seder! Again, this book concludes with a list of 'things to do' and some useful addresses.

All three books are very useful material for the Middle School teacher and even lower Secondary. Much use can be made of the material by Sunday School teachers too. The authors have obviously tried to pack in as much information as possible, and I would hope that the rest of the books in the series are as informative. I do recommend the books to teachers in a multi-cultural education situation who are looking for something a bit different, especially amongst the wealth of existing material on the market today.

Mandy Toward

These books are obtainable from:
A Wheaton & Co Ltd, Hennock Road,
Exeter EX2 8RP, price 65p each.

We've

Well . . . it certainly looks like a bus. But you could equally well call it an exhibition hall, a kitchen, a coffee bar, a dormitory or a children's play area, because it's all of these too!

About a year ago, it was just an ordinary bus —

But then Toc H got at it. If a bus could be schizophrenic, this one certainly is, because it has so many different functions. However, let's begin at the beginning.

Better than an elephant

South Yorkshire District was considering buying a bus to publicise Toc H. The idea certainly had a lot to recommend it — a bus is big, it's mobile and it gets noticed. So does an elephant, but the bus had further advantages.

One was in the realm of projects. Often, the district was offered projects but had to turn them down for lack of accommodation for volunteers. Right, they thought, why not make the bus a home on wheels?

Upstairs they planned sleeping and living accommodation for eight, including a toilet and fully equipped kitchen.

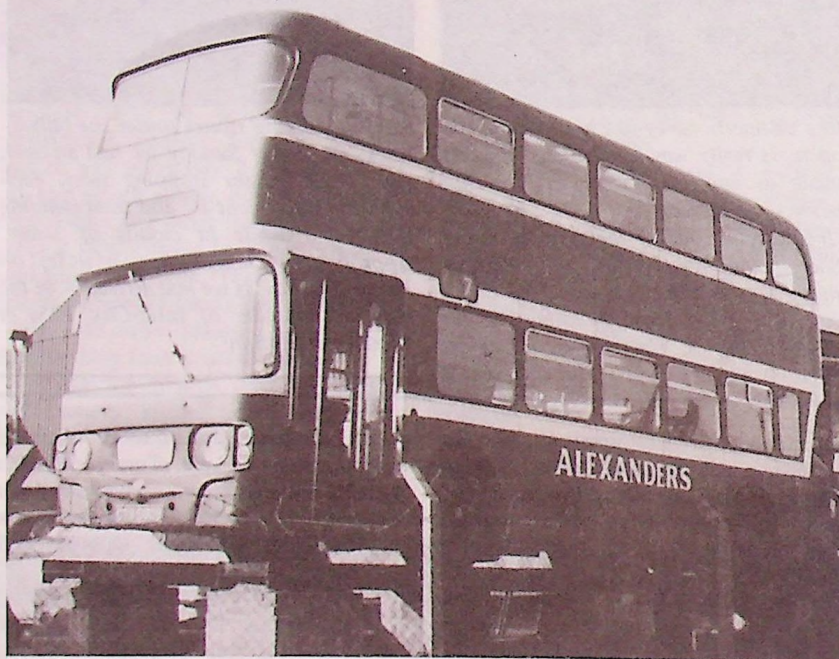
Shop, coffee bar and office

Then someone suggested fundraising — coffee mornings and bring and buy sales are second nature to Toc H, so why not hold them on the bus too? No problem — downstairs they sketched in a coffee bar, also capable of doubling as a shop.

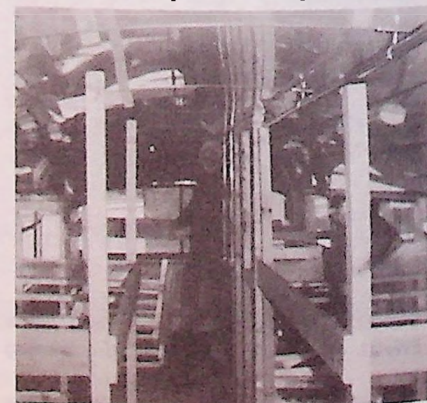
Well, they thought, if we're going to have the public aboard, we may as well tell them something about Toc H, so let's have an exhibition area. Now, if an exhibition is good, there's bound to be people who respond, so they included —



Photos: Peter Kay



Photos: Nigel Pratt



The bus was completely 'gutted' and refitted.

e Bought a Bus

by Scott Shaw

yes, you've guessed it — a volunteer recruitment office!

No swimming pool!

Believe it or not, there was some room left, so in went ideas for the kids — a bookcase, sandpit (sandpit?) and plenty of worktops with toys and games.

By now, they were really getting airborne and nothing seemed impossible. The committee's report says calmly *'In this way we eventually filled the inside of the bus, but we didn't have anything for the outside . . .'* Steady on chaps, I don't think we're quite ready for roof gardens and open air swimming pools — oh I see, you're just planning a mobile theatre by adding an awning to the side and carrying a do-it-yourself stage? Nothing unusual there.

Thank you Samantha!

By May last year, planning was complete — all they needed then was a bus, about £2,000 and plenty of help.

They found a bus quite quickly. Bob Alexander who runs a local coach hire firm had a handsome B registration double decker. They went in intending to measure it for their plans, but ended up buying it for £747 including VAT.

Money for the purchase and conversion came from all over the North East Region and from many places outside it. Some of the donations stir the imagination — 50p from Samantha's effort at Rawmarsh; £26.15 from the coffee day of Maggie's Yorkshire area group and £14 from Jessie's Frieston Shore Lunch. Some of the donations, though kind, are puzzling. How did they persuade the Methodist Bookshop to donate £100, and why should Butlins send £10, bearing in mind Toc H is actually in competition with them?

Borstal boys help

Enough of this whimsy. Donations were immediately put to work — or in plainer language, they spent the money as soon as they got it — on things like curtains, a cooker, fridge, blankets, plumbing, timber for the beds and partitions, and, (just to remind you it's actually a bus) a new starter motor for the engine.

Hatfield Borstal, with whom Toc H has been associated in the past (they helped with Port Penrhyn's furnishings) painted the bus inside and out, and you can see from the photographs what a magnificent job they did.

Now it gets confusing again. Although it's a bus, it's also a building because people live, eat and sleep in it. So it seemed reasonable to call in the fire brigade to inspect it and they duly recommended fire fighting equipment, smoke detectors, a fire door (but not a fire escape, thank goodness).

However (I hope you're still following this) although it's a sort of building, it's still a vehicle; they also joined the AA and arranged free parking with I-won't-tell-you-who.

The bus was commissioned by Bob Alexander in the grounds of St Bede's Church, Rotherham on 9 April in the presence of a large group of invited guests. Revd Colin Rudd blessed the bus. The guests then gathered for a splendid buffet lunch and a first class musical entertainment by TAG members and others from Dinnington.

The 'Plus Bus' was happily launched!

So far the bus shows no sign of having a nervous breakdown — perhaps it's at last become what it was always meant to be. And that, after all, is what Toc H is always promising its members!



Photo: Peter Kay

Nigel Pratt, who spearheaded the whole 'Plus Bus' operation, is happy with the end product — he now has to see that it's used!



Photo: Peter Kay

Revd Colin Rudd — Cuddesdon House Development Officer — blesses the bus.



Photo: Peter Kay

Bob Alexander cuts the tape.



Photo: Peter Kay

The guests gather for a buffet lunch celebrating the launch.

We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.
— Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In January

Raymond J Hazelton (Harrow)

In October

Frank W Turner (Wem)

In February

Rev Edward D Bonnar (Looe)

Hilda M Holland (Wem)

In March

May Ellis (Tower Hill)

A S 'Syd' Eves (Uckfield)

Peter Leitch (Levenmouth)

Harry Norton (Peterborough and Stamford District)

W Arthur Pengelly (Launceston)

Gordon A Read (North Walsham)

Phyllis E Smith (Bognor Regis)

In April

Jack H Clark (North Bucks with Oxford District)

Minnie L Farrow (Southdown District)

Cyril A Johnson (Kettering)

Frederick G Keel (High Brooms)

Elsie Threlfall (Blackpool)

John Maddock who died in February at the age of 91, became a member of Toc H 60 years ago. During WW1 he had been a member of the RFC and he returned to the RAF on the outbreak of war in 1939.

After leaving university John entered teaching, first at Eastbourne College and later at Hymers College. In 1928 John and a Hymers colleague visited secondary schools in the Hull area and talked to senior boys about Toc H. It was at one of these talks that I first met John. Three years later I became a member of Goole Branch and met John frequently when he came from the District Committee to see how our Branch was progressing.

A little later John left teaching and joined the Toc H staff on which he served for more than a quarter of a century. His contributions to the life of the Movement in Newcastle, Leicester and Leeds were of very great significance...

In all his Toc H work he was strongly supported by his wife, Liz, and they had a wonderful influence on the running of the Brotherton House in Leeds. It was a great joy for anyone to have them as guests and both were held in deep affection by many Toc H members and their families...

John was mentally very alert and physically active to the end of his life and always retained his interest in and his affection for the Movement he served with real devotion. He leaves a daughter

to whom we extend our sympathy and we give thanks for a man of great ability and dedication.

GTA

Barkingside Branch write to tell us how much they miss **Fred Hennessey** who died in January. Fred had been a member for 28 years and had held every major Branch office. He has also given many years service to his District and as Central Councillor. A skilful engineer, Fred was largely responsible for the emergency lamp scheme opened by his Branch. He represented the Branch on a host of local bodies, including the Redbridge Association for the Handicapped, Redbridge Voluntary Services Association and the Dr Barnardos Fete Committee. This busy and dedicated man was also a pillar of his church, serving on PCC and Deanery Synod.

Bill ('Legs') Warren, who died earlier this year, was a longstanding member in Weymouth. His Branch Pilot writes to tell us that, for many years before their Joint Branch was formed, 'Legs' was Secretary of the Men's Branch. His abiding interest was in the young. He had been a Scouter for much of his life and he created a close and abiding link between Toc H and a nearby Dr Barnardos Home — a link which produced many lasting friendships. He was a devout member of his local church. Throughout his illness, he set a fine example of strength and courage to all who knew and loved him. A true Toc H man, 'Legs' will be greatly missed by all those in the Movement who had the pleasure and privilege of knowing him.

Harold Barnes, a long serving member and former Chairman of the Cirencester Branch, died at the end of January after a long illness.

Harold was completely dedicated to the aims of Toc H and he set a fine example to us all. Besides being Branch Chairman, he had served widely in the District, had been Area Treasurer, Regional Chairman and Central Councillor for Gloucester and Mid-Cotswold Districts.

The funeral service took place in Cirencester Methodist Church which he had served faithfully as Local Preacher since 1939, and Toc H was well represented by many of his friends from Gloucestershire and beyond. Donations to Toc H were invited in lieu of flowers, and the response was magnificent.

Harold was essentially a family man who liked simple things such as

music and his garden (where members would assemble to saw and chop up wood for delivery to needy parishioners, this being one of the regular Branch activities). He was a quietly spoken man, but under his modest exterior there lay great strength of character and firmness of purpose. He was a kindly man, always ready to welcome anyone in need of help or guidance, and he won the respect of all who had the privilege of his friendship. He always lived up to the highest principles and, above all, he was a true Christian.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Phyllis, who supported him lovingly through the many years of their happy married life, also to her two married daughters, Christine and Rosemary and their children, and not least to her son David...

REA

Eddie Jenner, Pilot of Wortley De Leeds Branch, died in February, age 69. Eddie joined Toc H some 50 years ago and in 1953 set out with three fellow members to build the new Branch of Wortley De Leeds. His wise nursing of the infant Branch built it up to a peak strength of 37, heavily involved in work with old people's homes throughout the city and with a host of other jobs. Though numbers are fewer now, the comradeship Eddie always stressed has remained. Eddie personified Toc H to all who knew him and his fellow members were saddened that his death came just when the Branch was preparing to celebrate its 30th birthday.

Percy M Boorman (Strode Park and Herne Branch) died following a road accident earlier this year: he was 62. Percy had been on the staff of the Strode Park Home for the Physically Handicapped for 25 years. He was the Branch's Jobmaster, dedicated to giving smiling and cheerful service. Percy was well known locally and most village organisations were represented at his crowded memorial service. His Branch secretary says, 'Well loved, Percy is greatly missed'.

Ethel F Davey (Cardiff) died peacefully in February. She was devoted to Toc H in her own quiet way and is deeply missed. She was known for her work on Welsh folk history and also wrote a number of historical stories with her beloved Dor Knap as a background.

We give thanks for their lives



Eighteen months of intensive fund raising paid off when Thurrock (Essex) Joint Branch took delivery of a new £20,000 ambulance – their second. This new one will be used to ferry the elderly of the district and to carry physically handicapped youngsters on holidays and weekend trips. The pictures show the blessing of the ambulance by Revd Len Hill and a moving moment for Mrs Florence Price. The ambulance was dedicated to her late husband – a former Councillor and a founder member of the Branch.



50 YEARS AGO!

(This article by Tubby first appeared in the Toc H Journal for June 1933)



To Conquer Hate

During these early years, after the War, my mind was much possessed by two contrasted prophecies. The darker was that haunting tale which Thomas Hardy cast round the tragedy of the Titanic. In it, he pictured how on the very day on which the Titanic was christened and launched amid the plaudits of elaborate civilization, Dame Nature herself launched another great white vessel. No human eye beheld, no name was given; when with a rending crash, the fatal iceberg broke from a parent berg, and found a southward drift carrying her to her destiny. Hardy went on to picture these two vessels, each on their maiden voyage, blindly approaching their dark rendezvous; where, when the hour is come, the supreme work of a man's magnificence, the final word – as it then was – in luxury and sea safety struck, filled and sank, with none to save her multitudes. Had Hardy merely prophesied the War, or was there likelihood that something still more desperate, more unnatural, lay ahead? During those first few years of vaunted but illusory Reconstruction, when all ideals drained into Dead Sea bitterness, those of us who saw most, were most acutely anxious. The General Strike was, when it came, an iceberg that had got into a warm stream. The ship of State buckled a plate or two, but, to the amazement of the universe, lost no lives in the process of

collision. None the less, Hardy's parable of the Titanic contains a formidable truth. Send any group to Coventry, and you create a cause of bitterness. Isolate any faction, any class, and they will work you ill. Banish a race from the comity of nations, surround a sinning country with sinful nations hissing at her sins, and you may fear an iceberg by and by. The Christian code suggests that the true remedy is the contagion of affectionate influence. Words only – least of all words of hostility – will never heal.

Over against this sense of public jeopardy, there lay the other thought – that of Renaissance. I was at Milton's School, and when in 1922, I reached Hart House, Toronto, and saw round the walls of the Great Hall the famous prophecy from Areopagitica, I found again a Gospel I could re-appropriate: *'Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks: methinks I see her as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full noonday beam; purging and unscaling her long abused sight at the fountain itself or heavenly radiance; while the whole noise of timorous and flocking birds, with those also that love the twilight, flutter about – amazed at what she means...'*

Here was indeed a text for the Dominion; but was it not conceivable that the old land of whom it was first written, might

Congratulations to:

Richard Roberts CBE on his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester. Richard – a member for well over 50 years – has served as Vice-Chairman of the CEC and is still Chairman of the Manchester Toc H Children's Holiday Camp. He is a member of the Courts of both Salford and Manchester Universities, a Governor of Salford College and Chairman of Salford Health Authority.

and to:

Henry Bicket who has been appointed High Sheriff for Merseyside.

once more come to merit all this greatness? Were we to be content with the common judgment that England had no chance of a recovery of her first force of character? What stood between her and a great Renaissance? Chiefly some Flanders graves, which had lost her a select multitude of irreplaceable allegiances. But could they not be replaced? Could not these dead men gain their due discipleship and influence? Could not they claim a spiritual sonship to reinforce their sacrifice in the new age at hand? I pictured men in every walk of life, feeling themselves mysteriously akin to these young Elder Brethren, whose wounds would be their eloquence, whose longings would be lived into a great fulfilment; and that fulfilment would be nothing less than a uniting principle lifting anew the Lamp of pure religion.

Tubby

CHRISTMAS QUIZ 1982

This quiz was organised by the West Midlands and South Wales Region on behalf of Toc H and published in the November 1982 issue of Point Three. We did not succeed in our first objective of raising funds for the Family Purse (though we almost broke even) but we did sell some additional copies of the magazine.

The winner, by a clear margin of three points (scoring 107 out of a possible 112) was:

Mrs Olave A Hall, May Cottage, Fiddleford, Sturminster Newton, Dorset

Second was:

Mrs Ivor Sturmey (for Wroughton Branch), 25 Berkeley Road, Wroughton, Swindon, Wiltshire

Third was:

Mr M D Davies, 87 Waltham Crescent, Nuneaton, Warwickshire

Fourth was:

Mrs Leslie Parris, The Corner House Hillcrest Avenue, Llandrindod Wells Powys

'Highly commended':

George V Davies, Llandrindod Wells
E Walker and J B Poole, Kettering
Nan Stratton, Llandrindod Wells
Kitty Pill, Wroughton
Gladys Burt, Banbury
Jean Hill, Ipswich
Alan Croxford, Kendal
H S Stevens, Broadstone
Trevor Bowering, Peterborough
Georgina Bradley, Stamford
Joan Chamberlain, Twickenham
M A Galloway, Thurlestone, Devon
Brian Goldsworthy, Ilford
Mrs P Guile, Huddersfield
(all of whom scored over 90 out of a possible 112)

Liz and Rob Dixon of Scarborough won the booby prize even though they got one correct by mistake!

Major (Retd) Brian Toy had two farewells from Verden recently when he was presented with a plaque by Gilbert Francis and Fred Mason of Toc H for all his help during his tour of duty. Then on 21 April Brian was 'push chaired' on his way to retirement by his successor Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) David Smith MVO, who was ably assisted by WO2 Gordon (Rip) Kirby, Staff Sergeant Bert Hymers and Staff Sergeant Dave Ainge. The total service of these five is 175 years.

Open Forum

What can we do?

I read, with interest, Philip Carter's article in April's Point Three. I found it very, very sad. What Philip seems to be saying is that now that some of the membership are too old to maintain a commitment to Jobs, they should feel no guilt about opting out of basic Toc H principles. What makes Toc H different is the ability to see needs and to do something about them. Fund raising is only a part of that service and those who limit themselves to raising funds for other organisations deprive themselves of that basic involvement with service, and all the satisfaction of seeing a job well done, knowing that a part of you went into it.

Now I am not decrying 'conventional charities' like Barnardo's or Oxfam, but if all we do is raise money for others to spend, why Toc H at all? We are adding nothing to what already exists.

As a moderately young, quite enthusiastic Toc H member, I despair of this attitude which I meet so often. Why should anyone sign off from the full spectrum of Toc H activities when there are plenty of not so 'frail canoes' that need his support so badly, in whatever capacity he is able to give it? Insularity often leads us to believe that we operate alone, that what we do had no influence beyond what we see; but Toc H is about building bridges. I would urge Philip to build his bridges and continue to be involved in the job and project scene within the Movement. He asks 'What

can we do?' The answer is to work within our capability, but to do it *together*.

Is it not about time we divided our labour more effectively? Each job or project has distinct stages where different sorts of people are needed. For example:

Thinking
Fund raising
Planning
Action
Follow up

Nobody should feel excluded from any of these stages on the grounds of age, but if fund raising is what you feel that you do best, then that's fine, but the last project I ran consisted of volunteers between the ages of 20 and 65. I seem to remember the 20 year old being the most exhausted at the end of the week!

So, please, Philip, and all you other Philips, out there, it's your Movement and it's mine too. I can't launch my canoes without your help.

Maggie Kay
Hull

Note: See also contributions by Philip Douch and Peter Ranken elsewhere in this issue.
— Editor

Nuclear Deterrence

The thoughts of many of us have been directed towards the nuclear threat and the possibility of sudden death. It seems unkind to raise the subject once again, when the world is full of so many



Photo: Army Public Information

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

beautiful things, much more worthy of our attention. However, Christians should be practical people fortified by their faith and able to keep a jump ahead of terrormongers.

It occurs to me that it is almost inevitable that an accident will occur and I suggest that thinking should be directed towards the consequences of this. If ever there was an occasion for 'turning the other cheek' then this should be it. If it could be reasonably established that the imminent arrival of a weapon of mass destruction was as the result of an accident then what would be the justification for retaliation?

I sincerely hope that men (and women) in positions of power of the nations possessing these weapons have given thought to the possibility of accidental firing and decided upon the consequent action or more importantly refraining from action.

Richard Crump
Carshalton

Esperanto

May I ask you to find space to mention the free postal course in Esperanto, offered by the Esperanto Centre, 140 Holland Park Avenue, London W11 4UF? I now have 16 years experience of using this language in correspondence and during visits abroad. Other people, I am sure, could benefit from a knowledge of the language.

There is an international directory

available containing the names, addresses and special qualifications of local representatives throughout the world. When intending to go abroad, an Esperanto speaker uses this to discover the representative nearest to the place he intends to visit. These local Esperanto speakers are invariably friendly and hospitable and act as intermediaries between the visitor and non-Esperanto speaking people. The result for the visitor is much better than he or she could achieve through a superficial knowledge of the local language, and this can be achieved in some 75 countries. Esperanto is thus a passport to worldwide friendships.

H S Chapman
Deganwy

It reminds me!

I read with interest Bill Brown's letter ('Toc H in Australia') in the March issue. I too was in the Horley Branch together with Frank Gales, the Rev Jack Paget, Charlie Ruffel, Bert Gowland, Harold Voice, Harry Luck.

We met over Harry's bakehouse. Happy days! It was nice to hear of Bill Brown. I wonder does he still occasionally refer to Kimmel Bay? Frank and I still write to one another and from the contents of his letters he doesn't change much and is still young at heart.

Charles Thair
Horley, Surrey

50 Year Club?

Having recently completed 50 years membership in Toc H, it has occurred to me that we could possibly have a 50 year club. Looking at the membership in the Huddersfield District, I am quite sure there will be many more attaining this distinction, if they have not already done so! It would only mean perhaps a badge and we could pay an annual subscription for this and the achievement. What say you?

Elaine Lockwood
Huddersfield

Trading Stamps

Last year, you gave some publicity to my scheme for collecting trading stamps and cigarette coupons for the Jimmy Savile Stoke Mandeville Rebuilding Fund. The response was enormous and I have had many appreciative letters from your readers.

I have now raised and donated £21,855.93 to this cause. These stamps and coupons are a marvellous source of revenue. I am still collecting and would welcome further donations.

Miriam Tweed
Stafford

Note: Please send your stamps direct to:
Mrs M Tweed, 10 Coley Grove, Little Haywood, Stafford ST18 0OW.

— Editor



Photo: Southern Post Ltd

Each Spring, Felpham (W Sussex) Men's Branch give a party for their elderly neighbours. This year, some 80 guests were given tea and an entertainment ('Just Us' and pianist Mrs Iris Andrews).



Photo: South Kent Newspapers

Frank Dives, Chairman of Hythe (Kent) Joint Branch receives a cheque for £100 raised for them by local Guides and Brownies with a sponsored walk.

'What Can We Do?'

by Philip Douch and Peter Ranken
(See also 'Open Forum' in this issue.)

In the April issue of Point Three, we published an article under this title by Philip Carter. Having described the enthusiasm and activity of his early Toc H days, Philip spoke of the number of 'pensioners' in Toc H — many with plenty of spare time — and went on to say: 'Does Toc H agree that the time has now come, at which such 'ancients' may rightly feel that they are doing a worthwhile Toc H job, if they harness such energies and skills as may remain to them, to the raising of funds for such uncontroversial charities as the Cheshire Foundation, Dr Barnardo's, and the like? Bearing in mind that our time and resources may run out abruptly, and that it is not so much a matter of initiating things, as of 'seeing them through to their completion', is it not wiser to back up others, than to attempt to launch our own, very frail, canoes?'

The two pieces printed here are reactions by two of our younger members to what Philip wrote. — Editor

Philip Carter's argument, if accepted, would kill off Toc H. By the end of it he has effectively resigned both himself and the Movement to inactivity and death. As one of the younger members of Toc H and one of the youngest members of staff I find such pessimism about the future not only unhelpful and depressing but also unrealistic.

At the start of 'What Can We do?' Philip Carter picked out the key elements of Toc H which were important to him when he was a new young member. Toc H, he recalled, was '*never to be allowed to degenerate into a mere fund raising organisation*', we were '*to discover what was needed . . . and to use . . . members' abilities to get those needs satisfied*', and it was realised that '*we had time and energy to give, rather than money*'. In other words Toc H was about action, about getting things done, and this was the Movement's attraction to Philip Carter when he was younger.

Now that Philip and his contemporaries have grown older, however, his article suggests that the nature of Toc H should change. Despite stating that some of the older members now have '*even more spare time*' he wants to deny what he first learnt about Toc H and to concentrate merely on '*raising funds for uncontroversial charities*'. If Toc H really means anything to him there are two far better courses of action open.

Firstly, why change the essential nature of the commitment to Toc H at all? Some older members may no longer be able to be as physically active as they used to be, but Philip Carter surely underestimates himself and his fellow pensioners if he feels there are no local needs which they can help to meet. In many places older members do remain actively involved in the community, adapting their contribution according to their own changing circumstances.

Secondly, if the Toc H commitment to doing things really has passed and some older members really do have to restrict themselves to raising money, they can at least express their belief in the Movement by raising money for Toc H itself rather than just for other charities. If they no longer believe in the sorts of opportunities Toc H can offer people, however, they ought in all conscience to leave the Movement and raise money for something they do believe in. This would be a great shame though, for there are plenty of youngsters only too keen to enjoy and benefit from the same types of experience which Philip Carter tells us he enjoyed in earlier years, and Toc H is continuing to provide such opportunities for young people today. To allow the Movement to die with the death of its oldest generation would be a denial of the dual commitment outlined in the first Royal Charter of 1922 whereby we were '*to preserve amongst men and to transmit to future generations the traditions of fellowship and service*'. It would indeed be a sad memorial to those who first experienced this Toc H spirit in Poperinge if the deaths of their surviving contemporaries were to signal the death of the Movement which arose out of their fellowship.

Unfortunately, Philip Carter's 'What Can We Do?' attitude is all too prevalent in some Toc H circles at present. It is both in response to this attitude and also perhaps symptomatic of it that the CEC is planning its series of Day Conferences '*to rekindle the spirit*'. The future of the Movement, however, lies not with those people for whom the fire has gone out but with today's young people in whom the spirit of Toc H is already burning brightly — and there is a growing body of such young people around the country. Toc H continues to offer them its proper self, challenging them to give time and energy to meet real needs, and not surprisingly the challenge to action continues to be taken up. Local young Groups are forming in several Regions, the summer project programme attracts over 500 volunteers each year and a

national Weekend Project in Sheffield planned for September expects to gather well over 100 young people together. There is plenty to be optimistic about if only we could stop worrying about the pessimists.

I have mentioned repeatedly that it is action — doing things — which is Toc H's proper role, and it is through this shared action that we gain that special fellowship and excitement sometimes known as the Toc H spirit. The primacy of action seems to have been set aside recently, however, and Philip Carter's article is just one indication of this. It has also been set aside in the current obsession within Toc H about finance.

The need for money has been separated off and given prominence in our affairs and this has led to understandable bitterness amongst the membership. Money is in fact the least important element of Toc H and we are heading for destruction if we try to isolate finance as an issue separate from Toc H activity. In everything we do we see that where activity takes place, money is forthcoming; where Toc H gets things done, Toc H gets the money required. Edgar Wallace's remarkable developments at Crawley are testimony to this on a scale so massive that the project deals in terms of hundreds of thousands of pounds. More modestly, where ordinary members run successful local programmes and projects we know from experience that money is invariably given to support them. If individual people, businesses, firms, charitable trusts and government departments see that action is taking place they are still perfectly prepared to support Toc H financially.

In short, where Toc H looks first to involving itself in community action the secondary problems of finance become far less troublesome. Lack of money, then, is not an isolated difficulty — it is a direct result of Toc H not involving itself as it ought to in creative activity.

At last November's Central Council meeting the same concern with our financial problems again served to mask where the real problem lies. Not surprisingly there was an outcry at the proposal that Branches might be condemned as being 'not in good standing' if they failed to contribute a specified sum to the Family Purse, but as Tom Gulliver pointed out then, most of the debate missed the point by suggesting that the problem was financial when it was really a problem afflicting the spirit of the Movement.

For your diary

Quiet Weekend

There are still some places available on the Quiet Weekend at Alison House to be conducted by Bishop Alan Rogers from 23 to 25 September.

The inclusive cost of the whole weekend will be £20.50.

For further details and applications, write to Christine McCaskie, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

Fifty Years of Toc H (Yiewsley and West Drayton)

A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication will be held on Saturday 2 July 1983 at 4 pm at St Matthew's Church, High Street, Yiewsley followed by a tea and social evening in the School Hall. Former members and friends warmly welcome. **RSVP to Branch Secretary, Mr T E Hinde, 2 Whitehorn Avenue, Yiewsley, Middlesex by 15 June 1983.**

Please Note

The Day — Saturday
The Date — 10 September 1983
The Time — 2 pm to 7 pm
The Place — Pate's Grammar School for Girls, Albert Road, Cheltenham
The Event — West Midlands and S Wales Regional Rally (incorporating the 60th Anniversary of Toc H Cheltenham)
The Cost — £3 (including High Tea, (children £2). Without Tea — £1.50 (children £1)

Further details, apply to:
Mayberry Smith, 15 Henhall Avenue, Cheltenham, Glos. Tel: Cheltenham 27986.

Individual people may wish to make a personal self assessed contribution to the Family Purse and we should encourage such giving and hope that the importance of Toc H to its members merits a generous contribution, but to expect or demand levels of personal giving is contrary to our best principles. What is quite definitely not contrary to our best principles, however, is to expect and maybe even to demand that any grouping of Toc H members engages in sufficient Toc H activity. If it does not get things done it is unlikely to raise much money — but if it does get things done its standing in the community and its liveliness will be such that raising the equivalent of at least £10 per member to send to Family Purse will be ridiculously easy. There are Branches in various parts of the country who manage this as part of a healthy local programme, irrespective of the numbers or age of members. If any group cannot raise such a sum as this, it is not a financial problem, it is a problem of lack of action. They should not therefore be condemned for their financial shortcomings; the accusation is in fact more serious and more fundamental than that — they might well be considered 'not in good standing' because they have evidently ceased to fulfil the proper active function of Toc H membership.

This may seem harsh, but if it is harsh it is surely also true. If we are not prepared as members of Toc H to get things done, then we should not be in Toc H. If we are prepared to do things, raising money will follow naturally — and so, of course, will an increased interest from people not yet in the Movement. It was the appeal of action which brought Philip Carter into Toc H and it is this same appeal which attracts people today and will continue to attract people in the future. If we put

our efforts into getting things done I am confident that we shall also attract new members and improve our finances at the same time. Most importantly we shall also be true to the active spirit of Toc H.

PD

I speak as a young member of Toc H who, for the last five years, has been much involved with summer projects and also as a member of a Woking Branch.

Like those new Toc H members of 50 years ago that Philip speaks of, I feel strongly that Toc H is not just a mere fund raising organisation. As I see it, Toc H exists to help people discover hidden talents and abilities that they did not realise they possessed. Toc H is concerned with changing people, on their terms, for the better by doing voluntary social work. Toc H cannot do this if it becomes just an organisation like many others that raises money for other charities. They are good at it, but we have other aims.

However, I realise that there are many older Branches, that feel that they can no longer do this themselves, but can still raise a pound or two for a good cause. If that is so, why not raise money for a Toc H project in your area, and create an opportunity for the younger generation to experience what you felt when you first joined Toc H?

So, how *do* you organise a project?

1. See what needs there are in your area. If you feel they are all being covered, talk to your local Council for Voluntary Service, or Social Services. They might have an unfulfilled need. A few possibilities might be:

a holiday for deprived children

a holiday for disabled children
a playscheme
a conservation week — clearing a part of that old railway, canal, or common.

2. Talk to your Regional office, nearest field staff member or Regional projects co-ordinator/committee. Ask if they know of any past project volunteers who live near you. Ask if they know of possible leaders for your project.

3. With the leaders, sort out what needs to be organised, as they have experience of it. eg Activities, Accommodation, Transport, Food.

4. Talk to past project volunteers near you, preferably by telephone. If they want to volunteer for your project, fine. If they want to help set it up, suggest a specific job they can do. Talk to teachers at local schools — do they know of any possible volunteers?

5. If you haven't enough people to organise everything, put an advert, or even better, get an article about the project in your local paper, asking for helpers. State clearly the types of jobs that need doing — a caterer to organise food, or somebody to organise transport and drive during the week, for example.

6. Raise money. You know how to do that.

7. Run the project.

All this takes six to nine months, so what I have just written is obviously a brief description. That may seem a long time, but the result is definitely worth it. Why not give it a go?

PR

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Mallorca. Mountain village holiday in historic Valldemosa. Fully modernised 15th century house sleeps up to six. Available from 1 May. Minimum stay two weeks. Full particulars from owner: Mrs Gillian Barnett, 21B Canfield Gardens, London NW6. Tel: 01 624 5805.

North Wales. Happy family hotel, children welcome. H & C all rooms. Two minutes sandy beach and shops. Easy reach North Wales beauty spots and Snowdonia National Park. Parties welcome. SAE brochure: 'The Dolphin', 4 Paradise Crescent, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6AR. Tel: 0492 622223.

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £9 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

N Wales, near Abersoch. Fully equipped four berth caravan, on private site overlooking sea. Ideal for bathing, surfing and touring Lleyn Peninsula and Snowdonia. No pets. Moderate terms. Enquiries to: Jim Penness, Post Office, Llanengan, Gwynedd. Tel: 075881 2943.

Clacton - 6 berth Caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities include, pool, shops, children's playground and social centre. May/June - £45 pw, July - £50 pw, August - £60 pw, September - £45 pw. Full details from Mrs M Burgess, 6 Upper Park Road, Clacton-on-Sea. Tel: 0255 429428. SAE please.

Weymouth, bed, breakfast, evening meal from £48 week. Weekend breaks from £14.50. Bar, free parking. Also inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £80 week. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Folkestone. Les and Mary Tripp offer homely, personal service. Reasonable terms. Families welcome. Claremont Private Hotel, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DQ. Tel: 0303 54897.

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